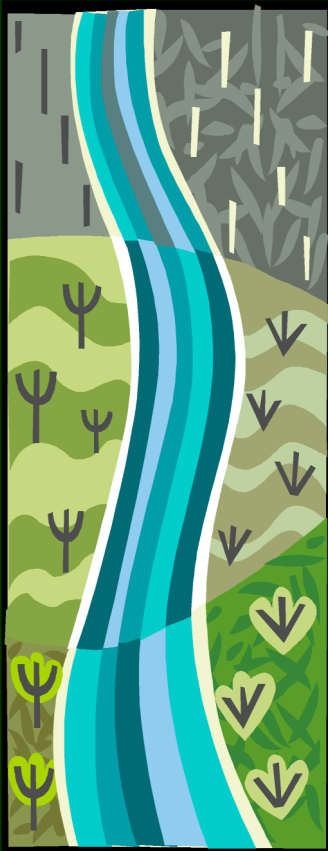


# Living Water

A quarterly publication of the Five Rivers District

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1



## Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Church Conf.	3
Reckless Love book review	4

*"I think I began learning that those who are happiest are those who do the most for others. This lesson I have tried to carry with me ever since."*

Booker T.  
Washington

## DISTRICT LAY LEADER NEWS

My name is Mary Brooks and I am honored to be asked by our District Superintendent to be your Five Rivers District Lay Leader. I also wear the hat of the District Lay Servant Ministries Director as of the first of this year and I believe the two positions go hand in hand. Both are about developing lay leadership in our district. I have been a member of Lyndon UMC since 1995 and Ottawa First before that. I have three grown daughters and three beautiful granddaughters. My oldest daughter, Laura, is active in youth ministry and has previously been part of Conference Council on Youth Ministry. My youngest daughter, Lisa, is the Administrative Assistant for the Communications Team in the Conference Office.



Mary Brooks 5R Lay Leader

Ask most any pastor or DS and they will tell you that the laity are the heart and hands of the local church. One of the struggles I see is how do we equip the laity in local churches? Let's face it. Most of us have a full time job, whether that's outside the home or as a homemaker, children or grandchildren to keep up with, and a limited amount of time to volunteer at our local church. How do we train, mentor and equip these already busy people so they can be successful in making disciples for Jesus Christ in their local setting and beyond?

In the coming months, I hope many of you will be able to participate in several events your District Lay Servant Ministries Team has planned. If you haven't visited our Facebook page, please do so- Five Rivers District Lay Servant Ministries. We will be updating it with information on upcoming events.

This fall, we are planning a Laity rally on Saturday, November 2 at Garnett UMC. Our district has an annual youth gathering and a district clergy gathering, so why shouldn't the laity get together for inspiration and support? For a small \$10 registration fee, laity in the district can enjoy a wonderful lunch and informative discussion of ways to help laity in the district. If you have persons in your local church that feel God calling them to do something, but they aren't sure what or how, please make sure they come to this event. Better yet, come and bring them along with you! It's always more successful to bring someone to an event than just telling them they need to go! Let's fill Garnett UMC and fill our laity with the Holy Spirit to love and serve the people in the Five Rivers District!

I am looking forward to serving you as your district Lay Leader and Lay Servant Ministries Director. I will be visiting local churches in the coming months to get to know all of you better.

Grace and Peace- Mary L Brooks

## September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### Events:

Sept. 9th Clergy Consultations FT  
Baldwin 1st 8:00 a.m. –5:45 p.m.

Sept. 10th Clergy, Admn. Asst. and  
Church Secretaries Meeting at Ottawa  
1st 9:00 a.m.—noon  
Network Leaders will meet for lunch di-  
rectly after meeting.

Sept. 11th Clergy Consultations FT  
Baldwin 1st 10:30 a.m. –4:30 p.m.

**Sept. 16th Lay Servant Ministries**  
Team 10:00 a.m. Baldwin 1st in the Li-  
brary.

Sept. 23rd Clergy Consultations FT  
Baldwin 1st 8:00 a.m.—5:15 p.m.

**October 27th Church Conference**  
Garnett UMC  
124 W 2nd Ave  
Garnett, KS 66032  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**November 2nd Lay Servant Rally**  
Garnett UMC  
124 W 2nd Ave  
Garnett, KS 66032  
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
Registration link below and flyer at-  
tached.

[https://gp-  
reg.brtapp.com/LayServantRally](https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/LayServantRally)

**November 17th Church Conference**  
Ottawa UMC  
203 E 4th St  
Ottawa, KS 66067  
3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Church Conference Schedule****South end—October 27, 3:00 p.m. @ Garnett**

Fort Scott Area Network

Humboldt/Iola Area Network

Paola/Louisburg Area Network

**South end churches:**

Colony  
 Elsmore-Mildred  
 Fort Scott 1st  
 Fulton-Mapleton  
 Garnett-Greeley  
 Hiattville  
 Humboldt-Big Creek  
 Iola:Wesley-Calvary  
 Kincaid Selma-Welda  
 Lacygne-New Lancaster  
 Louisburg  
 Moran-Bronson  
 Mound City-Blue Mound  
 Osawatomie-Lane  
 Paola  
 Parker-Beagle-Fontana  
 Pleasanton-Prescott  
 Plum Creek  
 Salem  
 St.Johns-Hammond-West Liberty  
 Uniontown-Redfield

**North end churches:**

Baldwin 1st  
 Burlington  
 Centenary/Eudora  
 Central  
 Gridley/Turkey Creek  
 Ives Chapel  
 Edgerton  
 Lawrence 1st  
 Linwood  
 Lyndon  
 Michigan Valley  
 Ottawa: 1<sup>st</sup>/Richter  
 Overbrook  
 Richmond-Princeton  
 Ottawa:Trinity  
 Vassar/Pomona  
 Melvern/Quenemo  
 Vinland  
 Waverly/PrairieView  
 Wellsville/Clearfield  
 Williamsburg/Union Chapel  
 Worden  
 YatesCenter/NeoshoFalls

**North end—November 17, 3:00 p.m. @ Ottawa First**

Lawrence Area Network

Lyndon/Ottawa Area Network

Burlington Area Network

All forms needed for your church conference with the exception of the support worksheet are available online.

Please submit the clergy support worksheet 2 weeks prior to the church conference.

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/chargeconferenceresources>



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**Reckless Love** Jesus Call to Love our Neighbor ~  
book review by Marvé Ralston

In these times of trouble throughout the world, one thing that is needed more than ever is love. That is what I was thinking when I picked up a copy of the book **Reckless Love** by Rev. Tom Berlin.

C.S.Lewis wrote: *“Do not waste time bothering whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the greatest secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love them.”*

That is the opening for Rev. Berlin’s book titled Reckless Love.

Each chapter is filled with scripture and gives different ways of encouraging us to get out of our comfort zone and do as Jesus requested in Mark 12:29-31.

The video that goes along with the book is a good teaching tool. My only complaint is that Rev. Berlin had most of his conversations in a car while driving.

This is a good 6 week bible study. I hope to teach it sometime in the future.

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